

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04394 171424Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OPIC-03 COME-00 L-02 SSO-00 /019 W

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O 171325Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1691

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4394

PASS OPIC AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, TH

SUBJ: TEMCO

1. GRAHAM NELSON OF TEMCO INFORMED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AT 1430 LOCAL TIME MARCH 17, HE AND THREE SHELL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, NITHIPHAT CHALICHAN, AT 1100 SAME DAY. MINISTER WAS ALONE. ACCORDING NELSON, NITHIPHAT DELIVERED "ULTIMATUM" SAYING CONCESSIONS WILL BE CANCELLED IF TEMCO DID NOT AGREE BY 1800 MARCH 17 TO GIVE RTG 51 PERCENT INTEREST IN TEMCO.

2. NELSON HAS TELEPHONED UNION CARBIDE ATTORNEY, FRANK GILLESPIE, IN NEW YORK. GILLESPIE INDICATED HE WOULD CONSULT WITH UNION CARBIDE OFFICIALS AND BY PHONE WITH SHELL EXECUTIVES IN THE HAGUE. HOWEVER, HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS TO ADVISE HIS PRINCIPALS IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO TAKE THE RISK OF HAVING THE CONCESSION CANCELLED RATHER THAN CAVING IN TO AN ULTIMATUM OF THIS SORT.

3. NELSON CONTENDED NITHIPHAT AT NO TIME GAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT GROUNDS THE RTG HAD FOR CONCESSION REVOCATION. HE WILL BE REPORTING BACK TO US WHEN HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW YORK.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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